

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 /154 W

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R 010955Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 322

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T TOKYO 2764

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CB, JA

SUBJECT: GOJ ATTITUDE TOWARD KHMER

REFS: (A) PHNON PENH 2826; (B) PHNOM PENH 3035

SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSION WITH FONOFF SE ASIA DIV HEAD HANABUSA, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM PHNOM PENH VISIT, HE WAS DECIDELY MORE UPBEAT ABOUT GKR'S AND FANK'S PROSPECTS THAN REPORTS IN REFTELS. DESPITE SOME DIFFERENCES IN VIEW OF LIKELY FUTURE GRUNK STRATEGY AND DETERMINATION, HE ESTIMATES PHNOM PENH AS ONLY SOMWHAT MORE THREATENED THAN IN PAST. IN ANY EVENT, HANABUSA STATED VERY FIRMLY THAT JAPAN'S POLICY TOWARD SUPPORT OF GKR WAS NOT UNDER REVIEW, THAT GOJ PLANS SAME SUPPORT FOR GKR IN UN THIS YEAR, AND ESF CONTRIBUTION PLANNED AT CURRENT LEVELS. END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED ON MARCH 1 GOJ ASSESSMENT OF AND ATTITUDE TOWARD KHMER WITH FIRST SE ASIA DIV HEAD HANABUSA, WHO RETURNED FROM THREE-DAY VISIT TO
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PHNOM PENH, FEB. 22. HANABUSA SAID THAT

THREATENING SITUATION WHICH EXISTED RECENTLY HAS CHANGED NOTABLY. IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PHNOM PENH HAS ABATED. GRUNK TROOPS HAVE BEEN PUSHED FROM PHNOM PENH AND STILL POSE LIKELY ROCKET THREAT ONLY FROM NORTH NEAR ROUTE 85. SIMILARLY, FANK FORCES HAVE ENHANCED THEIR POSITION IN PROVINCES. DIFFERENCE IN HANABUSA'S AND US ASSESSMENT TURNS ON LIKELY GRUNK STRATEGY DURING NEXT TWO MONTHS. HANABUSA BELIEVES GRUNK INTENDED TO TRY TO MAINTAIN FORCES WITHIN PHNOM PENH FOLLOWING RECENT OFFENSIVE AND PLANNED TO TRY TO TAKE PHNOM PENH DURING MARCH-APRIL OFFENSIVE. UNEXPECTED AND SURPRISING OUSTER FROM PHNOM PENH OBVIOUSLY INCREASES GRUNK'S DIFFICULTIES IN TAKING PHNOM PENH BUT HANABUSA BELIEVES RECENT FRUSTRATION OF PLANS AND CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DESPERATION WILL IMPELL GRUNK TO ATTACK WITH GREATER FERVOR IN MARCH-APRIL AND WITH GREATER CHANCES OF SUCCESS. SECOND POINT OF DIFFERENCE CONCERNS LOSSES TO GRUNK FORCES WHICH HE BELIEVES US FREQUENTLY OVERESTIMATES. HANABUSA COMMENTED THAT HIS ESTIMATES OF GRUNK INTENTIONS WERE BASED ON ASSESSMENT OF POLITICAL FACTORS RATHER THAN INTEL REPORTS. DESPITE SOMEWHAT MORE PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF SITUATION THAN US HOLDS, HANABUSA IS NOT READY TO WRITE OFF FANK OR GKR. STRONGER THREAT HE PERCEIVES IN NEXT TWO MONTHS NOTWITHSTANDING, HE DOES NOT DESCRIBE GKR CHANCES OF SURVIVING NEXT OFFENSIVE AS BLEAK.

2. HANABUSA SAID A PRIME PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT HAD BEEN TO DISCUSS CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR EVACUATING JAPANESE EMBASSY PERSONNEL. AMBASSADOR KURINO NOW HAS CONTINGENCY PLANS TO COPE WITH VARIOUS SECURITY SITUATIONS, BUT HANABUSA SAID THERE WOULD BE REASON TO REDUCE STAFF OF TEN (EIGHT JAPANESE AND TWO INDOCHINESE WIVES) UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS OF SECURITY. SHOULD SITUATION DETERIORATE, KURINO HAS AUTHORITY TO ACT AND SEND MUCH OF STAFF TO BANGKOK QTE ON LEAVE UNQTE. HANABUSA NOTED THAT GOJ WANTED TO

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AVOID ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD INDICATE JAPAN HAD DOUBTS ABOUT SURVIVABILITY OF GKR AND WOULD CARRY OUT ANY REDUCTION VERY CIRCUMSPECTLY. CORE GROUP COULD STAY QTE TO LAST UNQTE.

3. LOOKING TO FUTURE, HANABUSA SAID THAT PROVIDED GKR CAN DEFEND PHNOM PENH UNTIL RAINY SEASON, WATERSHED SHOULD BE REACHED WHICH SHOULD FACILITATE

POLITICAL FORCES IN KHMER NEGOTIATING END OF
SENSELESS WAR. NOTING HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY,
HANABUSA SAID THAT HE HOPED STRONGLY THAT USG WAS
NOT WEDDED TO ANY SINGLE FIGURE IN GKR AND HE HOPED
US WOULD AGREE THAT FREER CIRCULATION OF IDEAS
ABOUT SOLUTION OF KHMER PROBLEM, SUCH AS
SON SANN'S INITIATIVE, WAS DESIRABLE.

4. REGARDING GOJ FUTURE POLICY TOWARD GKR, HANABUSA
INDICATED THAT NO CHANGE IS ANTICIPATED. HE EMPHASIZED
THAT GOJ INTENDS TO DEFEND GKR SEAT IN UN AS IN 1973,
REGARDLESS OF CHANCES OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE, STRESSING THAT
POLICY WAS BASED QTE ON PRINCIPLE UNQTE. HE SAID
ASIANS MUST INSIST ON THEIR VOICE'S BEING HEARD ON
ASIAN MATTERS. IN CASE OF KHMER SEAT IN UN
POLICY WAS QTE RIGHT UNQTE AND ASIANS MUST PERSIST
IN DEFENDING IT. HE ALSO SAID PROUDLY THAT
GOJ HAS ACHIEVED SOME BALANCE IN ITS SE ASIAN
POLICIES (RECOGNITION OF HANOI) WHICH PERMITS
STRONGER MORE PRINCIPLED POSITIONS ON ISSUES LIKE
KHMER IN UN.

5. HE NOTED PLUSES AND MINUSES IN GKR UN EQUATION.
LISTED AS PLUSES WERE IMPROVED US RELATIONS WITH
ARAB WORLD AND WITH LA COUNTRIES AND PRECEDENT OF
ASIAN VIEW HAVING PREVAILED IN 1973. ON NEGATIVE SIDE,
HE CITED FACT THAT MORE COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE GRUNK
THAN GKR AND PROBABILITY THAT ASEAN
COMMITMENT TO GKR IN UN MIGHT WEAKEN, ESPECIALLY
IN THAILAND. NEVERTHELESS, HE CONTENTED, GOJ MUST
PERSIST QTE AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE UNQTE.

6. FINALLY, HANABUSA SAID GOJ PLANS ESF
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CONTRIBUTION IN FY '74 AT SAME LEVEL AS THIS YEAR.
FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS, BUDGET REQUEST
FOR INDOCHINA AID IS IN LUMP AND INDIVIDUAL BREAKDOWN MUST BE
CLOSELY HELD.

7. COMMENT: DRAMATIC EVENTS IN KHMER OR SHIFTS IN
JAPAN'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION COULD OF
COURSE RESULT IN CHA
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